

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /080 W

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R 251730 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3978

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4833

THE FOLOWING TEL FROM CALCUTTA SENT ACTION NEW DELHI DTD
APR 24 IS RPTD YOUR STA:

QUOTE

CALCUTTA 0730

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IN, SK

SUBJ: SIKKIM: ONE JOURNALIST' S VIEW

REF: CALCUTTA 0686

SIVDAS BANERJEE, TIMES OF INDIA CALCUTTA CORRESPONDENT SHARED
FOLLOWING INFORMATION, IMPRESSIONS, JUDGMENTS WITH POLOFF
APRIL 18:

(A) INTERNATIONAL IMPORT OF SITUATION: BANERJEE SAID HE HAD
BEEN TOLD BY SENIOR WEST BENGAL CONGRESS(R) MP, WHO HAD
BEEN BRIEFED BY HIGH LEVEL MEA OFFICIAL, THAT THERE WAS
IMPORTANT AND DELIBERATE MESSAGE TO NEPAL AND BHUTAN IN
PROMPT INDIAN ACTION IN SIKKIM. ACCORDI G MP (WHO REMAINED
UNIDENTIFIED) MEA OFFICIAL SAID THAT BOTH NEPAL AND BHUTAN
HAD RECENTLY SHOWN SIGNS OF RELUCTANCE TO FULLY COOPERATE
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ON DEFENSE MATTERS WITH INDIA. NEPAL' S POSITION IN PARTICULAR HAD IRKED MRS. GANDHI DURING HER RECENT VISIT THERE AND SHE WAS SENDING DIRECT MESSAGE TO KING BIRENDRA SIMILAR TO ONE T. N. KAUL CARRIED TO YOUNG BHUTANESE KING.

(B) SITUATION WITHIN SIKKIM: BANERJEE WHO VISITED SIKKIM APRIL 11-15, SAID THAT WHEN HE LEFT COUNTRY, GANGTOK/ RANGPO ROAD STILL CONTROLLED BY JAC VOLUNTEERS AND THAT NO INDIAN ARMY OR SIKKIM POLICE IN VIEW.

(C) WHO HE SAW: BANERJEE SAID HE (AND ABOUT TEN OTHER JOURNALISTS) WERE TAKEN ON TOURS BY INDIAN HOUSE AND EVENLT. EMBASSY ASKED HOW FINANCE MINISTER HON WOULD RESPOND IF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THAILAND AND SINGAPORE WERE TO ASK HIM FOR INSTRUCTIONS. HE SAID THAT HON WOULD TELL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THAT INsofar AS GOS WAS CONCERNED, IT WAS NOT TAKING A POSITION IN THE MATTER AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS ABSTAINING.
O' NEILL

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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